

certain liberal ideas with which, he was imbued by one of our French *philosophes* — Laharpe, who brought him up. But he is so fickle that one can never know whether the sentiments he utters proceed from his real conviction or from a species of vanity to put himself in contrast with his real position.'

" In elucidation of this he mentioned an argument they had had upon forms of Government, in which Alexander maintained a preference for elective monarchy. His (Napoleon's) opinion was quite contrary, for 'who is fit to be so elected ? A Caesar or an Alexander, who is not to be found once in a century: so that the election must after all be a matter of chance, and the law of succession is surely better than the dice.' During the fortnight that they were at Tilsit the two Emperors dined together nearly every day, 'but we rose early from table to get rid of the King of Prussia, who bored us. About nine o'clock the Emperor Alexander returned in plain clothes to drink tea with me, and remained conversing very agreeably on different subjects, for the most part philosophical or political, sometimes till two or three o'clock in the morning.' The Emperor Francis, he said, had more honesty but less capacity. <I would rely upon him sooner than on the other, and if he gave me his word to do such or such a thing, I would be persuaded that at the moment of giving it he meant to keep it; but his mind is very limited — no energy — no character.' The King of Prussia he called '*un caporal*,' without an idea beyond the dress of a soldier, and 'infinitely the greatest fool of the three.' The Archduke Charles was '*un esprit trds-mediocre*,' who had, however, on some occasion, shown himself not to be without military talent.

" He spoke lightly of the talents of his Marshals, but having once elevated them it had been his system to maintain them. He had always been indulgent respecting military errors, as he evinced in not removing Marmont from his command after the loss of his artillery at Laon, which he now believed to have been treachery. He said that Augereau was a '*mauvais sujet*,' who, he thought, had made his terms a month before he declared himself. He spoke well of Masséna. <I